IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with <u>underlining</u> and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please CANCEL claims 16, 22, 28 and 29; AMEND claims 17-21, and 23; and ADD new claims 30-33 in accordance with the following:

Claims 1-16 (canceled).

17. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim ~~16~~ 30, wherein the predefined process uses a plurality of subprocesses to at least one of transform and convert the digital image.

18. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim ~~16~~ 30, wherein the index is determined as a uniquely defined index.

19. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim ~~16~~ 30, wherein said referencing includes accessing the index stored with an entry address in the memory for the mapping object.

20. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim ~~16~~ 30, wherein said referencing includes accessing the index for the mapping object in the memory.

21. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim ~~16~~ 30, further comprising compressing and then storing the mapping object.

Claim 22 (canceled).

23. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim ~~22~~ 31, wherein a plurality of processes are used for one of determining indices and determining the new mapping object from the predefined digital image.

24. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 23, wherein the mapping object is accessed if the at least one parameter corresponds, within a predefined tolerance, to at least one stored parameter of the mapping object.

25. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 23, wherein the mapping object includes information.

26. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 23, wherein the mapping object includes another digital image.

27. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 23, wherein the at least one parameter is a specific variable for influencing image data of the predefined digital image.

Claims 28 and 29 (canceled).

30. (new) A method of accessing pre-stored modified images by a computer, comprising:

determining that an original digital image is to be modified by a predefined process to at least one of transform and convert the original digital image, the predefined process having at least one parameter which determines how the original digital image is to be modified;

determining an index for accessing the pre-stored modified images based on the at least one parameter; and

retrieving a modified digital image using the index, when the modified digital image is previously stored in a memory at the index.

31. (new) A method of accessing pre-stored modified images by a computer, comprising:

determining an index from at least one parameter of a process to at least one of transform and convert an original digital image, the at least one parameter determining how the original digital image is to be modified to form a modified digital image;

determining an address of the modified digital image by reference to the index, if the modified digital image is included in the pre-stored modified images;

accessing the modified digital image, if the address of the modified digital image can be determined with reference to the index; and

generating and storing the modified digital image from the original digital image according to the process, if the modified digital image is not included in the pre-stored modified images.

32. (new) A system for accessing pre-stored modified images, comprising:

a memory storing the pre-stored modified images; and

a processor retrieving a modified digital image by reference to an index when an original digital image is modified by a predefined process to at least one of transform and convert the original digital image, the predefined process having at least one parameter which determines the index and how the original digital image is modified to obtain the modified digital image.

33. (new) A system for accessing pre-stored modified images, comprising:

a processor determining an index from at least one parameter of a process to at least one of transform and convert an original digital image, the at least one parameter determining how the original digital image is to be modified to form a modified digital image; accessing the modified digital image by reference to the index, if the modified digital image is included in the pre-stored modified images; and generating and storing the modified digital image from the original digital image according to the process, if the modified digital image is not included in the pre-stored modified images.

4